Appl. No. 10/081,488
Amdt. dated November 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 5, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (new) A document information managing method for use in a document information managing apparatus which stores a plurality of registered documents to be managed, the document information managing apparatus being connected to at least one terminal device via a network and including a similar document searching means for searching the plurality of registered documents based on a seed document, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a terminal device, a request for registration of a document created by a user;

extracting, from the requested document, text data concerning contents of the requested document in response to the request;

searching, by the similar document searching means, the plurality of registered documents stored in the document information managing apparatus, based on the text data thus extracted as a seed document, to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document; and

notifying the terminal device of the related information.

16. (new) A document information managing method for use in a document information managing apparatus which stores a plurality of registered documents to be managed, the document information managing apparatus being connected to at least one terminal device via a network and including a similar document searching means for searching the plurality of registered documents based on a seed document and a property defining means for defining a property to be searched, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a terminal device, a request for registration of a document created by a user;

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extracting, from the requested document, at least one property of the requested document in response to the request, the at least one property having been defined by the property defining means;

searching, by the similar document searching means, registered documents having a property similar to the at least one property of the requested document from among the plurality of registered documents stored in the document information managing apparatus, based on the at least one property thus extracted as a seed document, to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document; and

notifying the terminal device of the related information.

17.   (new) The document information managing method according to claim 16, wherein the at least one property includes organization information as to an organization to which the user who created the requested document belongs.

18.   (new) A document information managing apparatus which stores a plurality of registered documents to be managed comprising:

at least one terminal device interconnected via a network;

a similar document searching means for searching the plurality of registered documents based on a seed document;

a means for receiving, from the terminal device, a request for registration of a document created by a user;

a means for extracting, from the requested document, text data concerning contents of the requested document in response to the request;

a means for searching, by the similar document searching means, the plurality of registered documents stored in the document information managing apparatus, based on the text data thus extracted as a seed document, to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document; and

a means for notifying the terminal device of the related information.

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19.   (new) A document information managing apparatus which stores a plurality of registered documents to be managed comprising:

at least one terminal device interconnected via a network;

a similar document searching means for searching the plurality of registered documents based on a seed document;

a property defining means for defining a property to be searched;

a means for receiving, from a terminal device, a request for registration of a document created by a user;

a means for extracting, from the requested document, at least one property of the requested document in response to the request, the at least one property having been defined by the property defining means;

a means for searching, by the similar document searching means, registered documents having a property similar to the at least one property of the requested document from among the plurality of registered documents stored in the document information managing apparatus, based on the at least one property thus extracted as a seed document, to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document; and

a means for notifying the terminal device of the related information.

20.   (new) The document information managing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the at least one property includes organization information as to an organization to which the user who created the requested document belongs.

21.   (new) A document information managing program for use in a document information managing apparatus which stores a plurality of registered documents to be managed, the document information managing program being connected to at least one terminal device via a network and including a similar document searching program for searching the plurality of registered documents based on a seed document, said document information managing program comprising the steps of:

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receiving, from a terminal device, a request for registration of a document created by a user;

extracting, from the requested document, text data concerning contents of the requested document in response to the request;

searching, by the similar document searching program, the plurality of registered documents stored in the document information managing program, based on the text data thus extracted as a seed document, to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document; and

notifying the terminal device of the related information.

22.   (new) A document information managing program for use in a document information managing program which stores a plurality of registered documents to be managed, the document information managing program being connected to at least one terminal device via a network and including a similar document searching program for searching the plurality of registered documents based on a seed document and a property defining program for defining a property to be searched, said document information managing program comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a terminal device, a request for registration of a document created by a user;

extracting, from the requested document, at least one property of the requested document in response to the request, the at least one property having been defined by the property defining program;

searching, by the similar document searching program, registered documents having a property similar to the at least one property of the requested document from among the plurality of registered documents stored in the document information managing program, based on the at least one property thus extracted as a seed document, to thereby obtain related information of a registered document having similarity with respect to the requested document; and

notifying the terminal device of the related information.

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23.   (new) The document information managing program according to claim 22, wherein the at least one property includes organization information as to an organization to which the user who created the requested document belongs.